



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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**CALIFORNIA MAN GUILTY OF IDENTITY THEFT CRIMES**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE** – Leo Wesley Laporte, age 60, of Orange, California, pleaded guilty on February 1, 2007 to a two-count indictment for mail and wire fraud.

The indictment against LaPorte charged that during early 2006, while using the U.S. Mail and interstate wires, pretended to be both his brother and his cousin in a fraudulent attempt to get a certified copy of his cousin's birth certificate.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono commended the Federal Bureau of Investigation, stating: "The vigilance of the FBI, which handled the investigation is a fine example of federal law enforcement work and professionalism at its best. This should serve as a warning to anyone contemplating identity fraud that they will be detected, apprehended, and prosecuted."

LaPorte faces a possible maximum prison term of twenty years and a maximum fine of \$250,000. LaPorte's sentencing hearing was set by U.S. District Court Chief Judge Steven J. McAuliffe for May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Alfred Rubega.